

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8-9, 12, 17-18, 34-38, and 40-44 are currently pending in the application. Claims 4, 7, 23, and 39 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 17-18, 34-38, and 40-44 are amended herein in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. No new matter is added to the application by virtue of these amendments. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested, because they place the application in condition for allowance or, at least, in better condition for appeal.

Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a continuing application drawn to subject matter canceled from the claims of the present application.

I. Response to Claim Objections

Claim 23 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c). Claim 23 has been canceled, thus the objection is obviated and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 12, 17-18, 23, and 34-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The legal requirements for making a determination under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, have previously been reviewed, and such reviews are hereby incorporated by reference.

Claim 23 has been canceled, thus the rejection thereof is moot.

Claims 4, 7, and 39 were rejected for allegedly omitting essential method steps. Claims 4, 7, and 39 have been canceled to simplify issues remaining in the present application and in furtherance of early allowance of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application drawn to the subject matter of these claims.

Claims 1-4, 17-18, and 34-44 were rejected for allegedly lacking antecedent basis for certain specified terms. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees that these claims were indefinite, MPEP § 2173.05(e), Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 17-18, 34-38, and 40-44 in a good faith effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under Section 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 17, and 35-37 were rejected for allegedly containing awkward and ungrammatical terminology. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees that these claims were indefinite, MPEP § 2173.05(e), Applicant has amended these claims according to the Examiner's suggestion in a good faith effort to place these claims

in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 18 was also similarly amended.

In view of the statement of the applicable law, explanations, and amendments presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 8-9, 12, 17-18, 34-38, and 40-44 are in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and withdrawal of the rejections on that ground is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

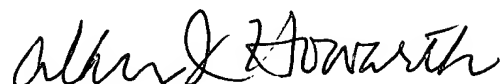
Applicant has made a good faith effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. Since the sole issues remaining are those under Section 112, second paragraph, which can usually be easily worked out by telephone interview between an examiner and an attorney of record, Applicant respectfully requests that, if any issues remain after reconsideration of the present application, then the Examiner call the undersigned attorney so that such issues can be resolved.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-3, 8-9, 12, 17-18, 34-38, and 40-44 and passage of this application to issue.

Appl. No. 09/576,623
Amendment dated July 25, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2003

DATED this 25th day of July, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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